

## MBC FAMILY,

First, I want to thank you for the out-pouring of support I've received from so many of you since the elder nomination "no" vote on 30 June. I am so appreciative of your emails, comments, and commitment to continued prayer. Thank you!

Clearly, there is a lot going on in our church family. I've heard from brothers and sisters that represent a wide range of perspectives, and they've all told me, "Chuck, this isn't about you - there are other things going on." While I appreciate that sentiment, I'd like to ensure that before you vote next Sunday, you have a chance to have some insight into my heart and mindset. Therefore, since many of you were not able to attend the last congregational meeting, I asked the current elder board if I could send this personal note.

I want to be very transparent -- my situation is somewhat different from the other two elder nominees. In early 2020, I had the privilege of constitutionally filling the remainder of John Baber's elder term. (It was an honor to sit in this dear brother's chair at the table.) Since the COVID posture precluded the June 2020 congregational meeting, I continued to serve until the recent meeting about 2 weeks ago. These circumstances have given me a unique perspective into the MBC elder board and our senior staff. Based on recent concerns I've heard from some of you, I'd like to offer some observations and thoughts in complete candor:

- I learned working with the Navy's Blue Angel flight team that while we will never attain perfection as an organization, to seek continuous improvement we must be humble, transparent, and foster a culture that encourages and listens to constructive criticism.
- MBC is an independent, non-denominational church - and by God's grace it always will be. Are we perfect? No. Has it been a turbulent period of change over the last few years? Yes. Did the pandemic further exacerbate the impact of change and challenges of communication? Yes, it certainly did.
- Have there been some decisions about ministries that could have been communicated and coordinated better? I think so. Can the elder board and church leadership improve, especially in terms of communication and transparency? Of course, we can always be better.
- Have we accomplished some amazing work for the Kingdom over the last 5 years through a missional partnership with the SBC? Yes, we have. Should that partnership be scrutinized in light of the current dysfunction within the SBC? Absolutely. In fact, ALL of our partnerships and linkages should be scrutinized annually for any shift in alignment and purposes, and to cross-check our strategic efforts for the Kingdom.

- I am grieved by the heartache and disunity that some of the recent rhetoric has created. The cause of Christ has been harmed. Individual brothers and sisters have been hurt. The reputation of the Bride of Christ has been damaged before unbelievers. May the Lord forgive us all as we repent and move forward in unity.

I've been at MBC for seven years, so I don't have the deep roots that some of you do. I know that, and I respect that. But perhaps a certain amount of objective detachment allows me to step back and see the big picture. We have been blessed with an incredible church, in incredibly strategic locations, with an incredible opportunity to carry out His mission. We have thousands of brothers and sisters that want to serve Him, raise their families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the DMV and beyond. We have a gifted pastor that has been called of God to be here in this time. And we have a talented leadership team and staff that are ready to take us to the next chapter of Kingdom business in unity of Spirit. Whether I am serving as an elder or not, I am excited and committed to the Lord's work in this family.

Does that mean we will always agree? No. Should there be respectful dialogue and discussion among the brothers and sisters? Absolutely! But let's give no quarter to Satan in the process. We can all be better...I know that. I OWN that. Let's allow iron to sharpen iron in the spirit of Christ. Please pray for me, and I'll do the same for you.

With all my heart I believe we have a flock to shepherd, a city to impact, and a world to win for Christ.

**YOUR SERVANT,**  
**Chuck Hollingsworth**